

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
  
a receiving unit ~~for receiving~~ that receives print jobs in which an individual print job can comprise image data based on multiple document images of various sizes and/or orientations; and  
  
a processing unit for processing the received ~~document~~ image data so that the multiple document images can be printed on a sheet of paper,  
  
wherein said processing unit comprises an identifying unit for identifying an area which is not yet covered with document images, and a judging unit for judging whether a new document image or images can be laid out in said area.
2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein, if said ~~judgment~~ judging unit judges that no new document image or images can be laid out in said area, ~~its~~ a new document image or ~~those~~ new document images ~~shall~~ are designated to be laid out on another sheet of paper.
3. (Original) An image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processing unit lays out document images adjacent to each other.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:  
~~a receiving step for receiving~~ an individual print job containing image data  
based on multiple document images of various sizes and/or orientations; and  
~~a processing step for processing the received document~~ image data so that the  
multiple document images can be printed on a sheet of paper,  
wherein said processing step comprises an identifying step for identifying an  
area which is not yet covered with document images, and a judging step for judging  
whether a new document image or images can be laid out in said area.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for image processing,  
comprising a sequence of instructions which execute the following steps:  
~~a receiving step for receiving~~ an individual print job comprising image data  
based on multiple document images of various sizes and/or orientations; and  
~~a processing step for processing the received document~~ image data so that the  
multiple document images can be printed on a sheet of paper,  
wherein said processing step comprises an identifying step for identifying an  
area which is not yet covered with document images, and a judging step for judging  
whether a new document image or images can be laid out in said area.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a receiving unit for receiving an individual print job comprising image data  
based on multiple document images of various sizes;

a detecting unit for detecting a maximum size of document images based on the received image data;

a selecting unit for selecting paper with a size equal to or larger than the detected maximum size; and

a forming unit for forming images based on the image data on the selected paper.

7. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving an individual print job comprising image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;

a detecting unit for detecting a maximum size of document images based on the received image data;

a calculating unit for calculating a scaling factor that causes the detected maximum size to match with the size of a print area;

a processing unit for scaling up or down the sizes of the document images based on the calculated scaling factor; and

a forming unit for forming images based on the processed image data on the print area.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the print area is the entire area of a sheet of paper.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the print area is an area obtained by dividing the entire area of a sheet of paper ~~to~~ into equal parts.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:  
~~a receiving step for~~ receiving an individual print job comprising image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;

~~a detecting step for~~ detecting a maximum size of document images based on the received image data;

~~a calculating step for~~ calculating a scaling factor that causes the detected maximum size to match with the size of a print area; and

~~a processing step for~~ scaling up or down the sizes of the document images based on the calculated scaling factor.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for image processing, comprising a sequence of instructions that execute the following steps:

~~a receiving step for~~ receiving image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;

~~a detecting step for~~ detecting a maximum size of document images based on the received image data;

~~a calculating step for~~ calculating a scaling factor that causes the detected maximum size to match with the size of a print area; and

~~a processing step for~~ scaling up or down the sizes of the document images  
based on the calculated scaling factor.

Claims 12-16. (Canceled)